

2013 -- S 0769

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LC01704
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - ELECTIVE MEETINGS

Introduced By: Senators Lynch, and Paiva Weed

Date Introduced: March 13, 2013

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 17-18 of the General Laws entitled "Elective Meetings" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **17-18-10.1. Early voting. -- (a) In person early voting shall be made available to any**
4 **registered and eligible voter for primary elections, special elections and general elections.**

5 **(b) In-person early voting shall begin on the third Thursday before an election and end on**
6 **the last Friday before a scheduled election, and shall not include Saturdays and Sundays;**
7 **provided, however, that in the event one of the days scheduled for early voting falls on a legal**
8 **holiday, the early voting period shall commence the third Wednesday before an election and early**
9 **voting shall not take place on the legal holiday.**

10 **(c) During the early voting period as set forth in subsection (b) above, early voting shall**
11 **take place at a location to be determined by each local board and approved by the state board of**
12 **elections provided that adequate notice shall be posted at the local board's office informing the**
13 **public of the location where early voting is being conducted. Early voting shall commence daily**
14 **not later than 9:00 a.m. and close no earlier than 4:30 p.m.**

15 **(d) Prior to the in-person early voting period, the state board shall provide the local**
16 **boards with the ballots, certified envelopes for enclosing ballots, ballot boxes, voting instructions**
17 **and other supplies necessary to effectuate the provisions of this section.**

18 **(e) The local board shall provide a ballot and ballot envelope to any in-person early voter**
19 **who provides positive proof of identity as required by section 17-19-24.2. The in-person early**

1 voter shall be provided with a voting booth identical to the voting booths used on the regularly
2 scheduled election days. Once the in-person early voter has completed the ballot, the early voter
3 shall place the ballot in the ballot envelope and seal the envelope. An official of the local board
4 shall mark the envelope with the appropriate voting precinct designation and return the envelope
5 to the in-person early voter. The in-person early voter shall place the envelope in the ballot box.

6 (f) The ballot boxes shall be locked and sealed and the keys shall remain in the
7 possession of a designated official of the state board according to a plan for implementation
8 provided by the state board of elections. An official from the state board shall collect the contents
9 of the ballot boxes periodically after in-person early voting ends on each day, and in no event
10 later than midnight on the day before the election, and shall transfer the ballots to the office of the
11 state board for counting and tabulating purposes in the same manner as mail ballots pursuant to
12 section 17-20-26.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO ELECTIONS - ELECTIVE MEETINGS

1 This act would allow early in-person voting prior to all primary, special and general
2 elections.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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